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**SITE SURVEY  
of  
HYATTSVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC  
(MD-200)  
Edmonston, Prince George's County, Maryland**

**October 1999**

Prepared by: Maryland Department of the Environment  
Waste Management Administration  
Site and Brownfields Assessments/State Superfund Division  
2500 Broening Highway  
Baltimore, Maryland 21224-6617

Prepared for: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

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## **HYATTSVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC (MD-200)**

### **AUTHORIZATION**

The Maryland Department of the Environment, Waste Management Administration (MDE) performed a site survey of Hyattsville Gas and Electric as part of the Site Survey Initiative. This site survey was completed under the 1999 Cooperative Agreement between MDE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

### **SCOPE OF WORK**

The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess the status of those sites that were previously designated No Further Remedial Action Planned by the EPA. This initiative is intended to determine if site conditions have remained stable, provide a current description of the site and identify and address any new pathways for contamination. The initiative is also intended to enable the State to determine whether the State should recommend further investigation by EPA under the Cooperative Agreement, oversight by the State and no further investigation by EPA, or no further action be taken by EPA or the State and that the State designate the site as a "Formerly Investigated Site."

### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The main portion of the site is situated at 4661 Tanglewood Drive in Edmonston, Maryland (Figures 1 and 2). Geographic coordinates are 38°56'45" North Latitude and 76°56'15" West Longitude. Maryland grid coordinates are North 405,300 feet and East 818,300 feet. The site is identified on Prince George's County Tax Map 50 as Parcel 33 and Parcel L-L'.<sup>1</sup> The site occupies four acres. The maximum ground elevation of the site is approximately 10 feet above mean sea level<sup>2</sup> and gently slopes to the west. The site is mostly paved and enclosed by galvanized fencing in certain areas. The site is located in a industrial zoned area and is bounded by Buchanan Street to the north, Tanglewood Drive to the west and industrial/commercial businesses to the south and east.

During a site visit in July 1999, MDE personnel documented conditions of the site. Parcel L-L' is currently a truck maintenance facility. Several businesses occupy Parcel 33 which include (from north to south) Universal Appliance, Phelps Time Lock, Appliance Recycling Centers of America, Inc., Lindstrom Corporation and D.C. Van Lines. These businesses leased office/storage space from Washington Gas Light Company (WGLC), the current owner. A 2,500-gallon aboveground heating oil storage tank is located behind the building that houses the Appliance Recycling Centers of America, Inc.

### **OPERATIONAL HISTORY**

Between 1907 to 1946, Hyattsville Gas and Electric operated a coal gasification facility on the site (Figure 4).<sup>3</sup> Water gas was produced by "cracking" bunker C oil or gas oil in the presence of blue gas and steam. The facility had a 5,000-gallon water tank



and two gasometers. When the crude gas was cooled during condensation, the residual waste generated included tar, water, hydrogen cyanide, and ammonia. In 1939, Hyattsville Gas and Electric became a subsidiary of WGLC. WGLC converted from manufactured gas to natural gas during the years 1946 and 1947. The building that currently houses the Appliance Recycling Centers of America, Inc. was the former administration building for Hyattsville Gas and Electric. The administration building also housed the purification system for the manufactured gas.

After 1946, the site was split and part was sold Mr. Eliot Powell (Parcel 33) and the other part (Parcel L-L') was sold to Wenger Associates. Parcel 33 was sold in 1951 to Mr. Powell who constructed commercial buildings and warehouses for lease to tenants. Eventually, Mr. Powell sold Parcel 33 back to WGLC in 1994. Wenger Associates purchased Parcel L-L' for a truck maintenance facility in 1951.

## **PREVIOUS STUDIES**

In 1986, the Waste Management Administration of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene conducted a Preliminary Assessment of the site in order to document existing site conditions and determine if additional investigation is warranted.<sup>3</sup>

In 1992, ESC, an environmental contractor for WGLC, prepared the Soil and Groundwater Investigation report.<sup>4</sup> ESC installed three on-site and two off-site monitoring wells (Figure 3) and collected groundwater samples from these three wells. ESC also collected five soil samples. According to Tom Fryer of WGLC, one soil sample showed elevated levels of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) of 463 parts per million (ppm) in Parcel L-L'.

Geraghty and Miller (G&M) conducted the Site Investigation in 1995.<sup>5</sup> G&M installed four monitoring wells in Parcel L-L' and one monitoring well in Parcel 33 (Figure 3). Seven on-site soil samples and nine groundwater samples were collected on and off-site. Mr. Fryer indicated one soil sample had 13 ppm of PAH. No toxicological evaluation was performed. Groundwater sample results are discussed under "Groundwater Pathway" of this report.

WGLC filed a Voluntary Cleanup Program application with the MDE for the site on November 18, 1998. The company has plans to renovate a vacant lot in the southern portion of Parcel 33.

## **GROUNDWATER PATHWAY**

The site overlies the Potomac Group. Of the four monitoring wells in Parcel 33 and the four monitoring wells in Parcel L-L', monitoring well #MW-4 showed elevated levels of benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and xylene (BTEX) of 40,000 parts per billion (ppb) during a 1992 groundwater sampling event (Mr. Tom Fryer, WGLC, personal communication, July 1999). Monitoring Well #MW-3 had 2,000 ppb of BTEX during that same groundwater sampling event. Since the nearest domestic well is one mile from the site and residents in this area are on public water supply, ingestion of groundwater

from the site is minimal. Table 1 lists domestic wells within a four-mile radius of the site.

TABLE 1--DOMESTIC WELLS WITHIN A FOUR-MILE RADIUS OF THE SITE<sup>6</sup>

Number of Wells	Distance from Site (miles)	Depth Range of Wells (feet)
--	0 to 0.25	--
--	0.25 to 0.5	--
--	0.5 to 1.0	--
--	1.0 to 2.0	--
2	2.0 to 3.0	150 - 300
5	3.0 to 4.0	23 - 217

### **SURFACE WATER PATHWAY**

The surface water pathway has not been evaluated since no surface water samples have been collected from the Northeast Branch of the Anacostia River situated approximately 500 feet west of the site. Further assessment is needed to determine whether contaminated shallow groundwater flow on the site has migrated to the river.

### **SOIL PATHWAY**

The soil pathway is a potential concern in some grassy areas since exposure to trespassers is a possibility. Most of the site, however, is covered with asphalt. Contact with the soil in these areas is minimal.

### **AIR PATHWAY**

The air pathway has not been evaluated.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

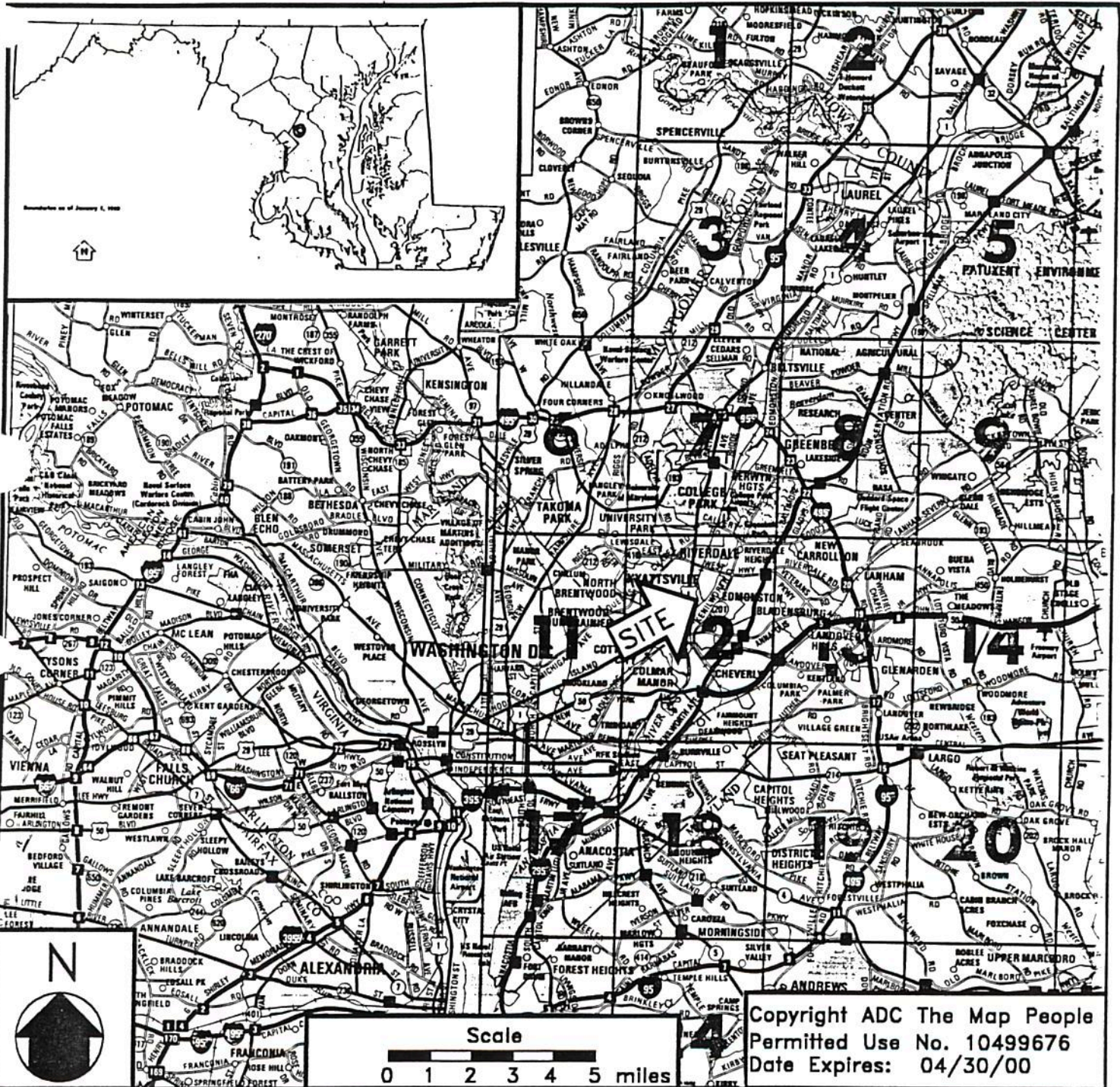
Based on the information available, MDE has further requirements related to the investigation of hazardous waste at this site. MDE further recommends that this site does not warrant further investigation by the EPA and that it be "archived" by EPA.

## REFERENCES

1. Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, 1999, Real Property Information.
2. U.S. Geological Survey, 1965, Topographic Map of the Washington East, D.C.-MD 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Maryland, Scale 1:24,000.
3. Waste Management Administration, 1986, A Preliminary Assessment of the Hyattsville Gas and Electric Company.
4. ESC, 1992, Soil and Groundwater Investigation for Hyattsville Gas and Electric.
5. Geraghty and Miller, 1995, Site Investigation for Washington Gas.
6. Maryland Department of the Environment, 1999, Well Completion Database.

## APPENDIX A—FIGURES





**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF  
THE ENVIRONMENT**  
WASTE MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION

2500 Broening Highway  
Baltimore, MD 21224  
410-631-3493

**MDE**

EDMONSTON

**REGIONAL MAP OF SITE LOCATION  
HYATTSTVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC**

MARYLAND

(9965505)

65505



(b) (9)

12.  
2/24-6

ORIGINAL

11

12

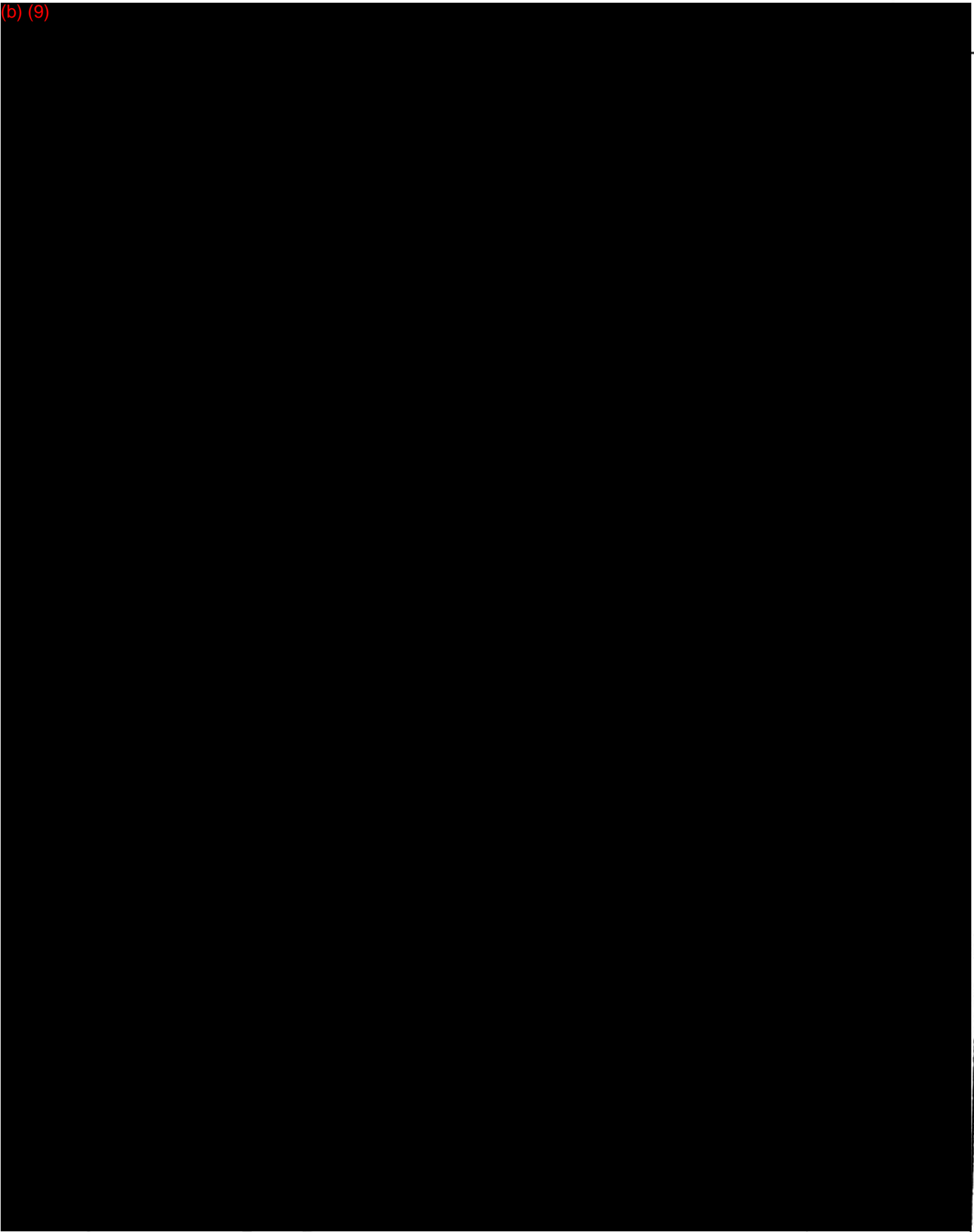
12

NAME OF PERSONS: BLAKE R. FISH  
INTERVIEWED BY: WOLF CREEK HUNTING CO. INC.

DATE: MAY 1999

INTERVIEWED BY COMPANY

(b) (9)



MONITOR WELL  
LOCATION

FIGURE

3

## **APPENDIX B--PICTURES**



ORIGINAL  
(Red)



Photo 1--Panoramic view of the site in Parcel 33. View to the east.



Photo 2--A trucking firm in Parcel L-L'.